and Kashmir, Haryana and Delhi to the Army till there is a improvement in the law and order situation in these areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, para-military forces like BSF/CRPF are being deployed to guard AIR/Doordarshan installations in the States of Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir for providing adequate security.

Security to electronic media Employees

225. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion that a fool proof security cover should be provided to all electronic media employees and their families in all sensitive areas to restore their confidence; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such suggestions and the steps taken by Government in that direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, one of the demands put forward by the various Associations of AIR/Doordarshan employees in the wake of the killing of the Station Engineer, AIR Patiala was that the security of AIR/Doordarshan installations in the State of Punjab and J & K should be handed over to the para military forces. Accordingly, BSF/CRPF personnel are being deproved to guard AIR Doordarshan installations in the States of Punjab and J & K . An Inter-Ministerial Group comprising representatives of Minisrty of Home Affairs, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Media Units is reviewing the status of security of media installations in Punjab and J & K.

Killing of the Station Director; AIR Patiala

226. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that militants who had taken the responsibility of kidnapping the Station Director, AIR Patiala Shri M. L. Manchanda had as one of the conditions for his release sought prescription of a code of conduct for electronic media in Punjab;

(b) if so, what were the conditions offered by them and what efforts were made by Government to secure his release; and

(c) whether the headless body of the said Station Director was later recovered from one place and his head from another after a lapse of over forty days; if so, what steps have been taken to restore confidence amongst the media staff in Punjab?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) A statement released to the Press by a militant organisation claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the Station Engineer, AIR, Patiiala and contained conditions pertaining to the broadcast and telecast of programmes from AIR & Doordarsnan Stations in Punjab and Chandigarh. The conditions included (i) broadcast of a letter written by the convicts in General A. S. Vaidva's murder case through the national hook up of AIR and Doordarshan; (ii) broadcast of all programmes in Punjabi by AIR Stations of Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Patiala and Bhatinda; (iii) stoppage of national Hindi bulletins from these Stations; (iv)